

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 04021 091416Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 NIC-01 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 COME-00

EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /196 W

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R 091200Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2614

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 22-OCTOBER 5, 1973

REF: MANAGUA 3852

1. AN ACTIVE PERIOD - THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE GON'S EFFORTS TO AMEND LAWS DEALING WITH INJURY AND CALUMNY WHICH AFFECT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS DOMINATED THE POLITICAL SCENE THROUGHOUT THE REPORTING PERIOD (DETAILED REPORT ON STORMY ENACTMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION SENT SEPTTEL). THE LONG AWAITED MEXICAN PLAN FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF MANAGUA FINALLY ARRIVED BUT ATTRACTED MINIMAL POLITICAL INTEREST, PROBABLY BECAUSE SO LITTLE IS ACTUALLY KNOWN ABOUT HOW IT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED. THESE MAJOR EVENTS COMPETED FOR ATTENTION WITH A DAZZLING ARRAY OF ENTERTAINMENT FEATURING THE SANTANA ROCK GROUP,
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 04021 091416Z

FAMED MEXICAN COMEDIAN CANTINFLAS AND THE USAF THUNDERBIRDS

WHICH DESCENDED ON MANAGUA BREAKING THE ENTERTAINMENT DROUGHT IMPOSED BY THE EARTHQUAKE.

2. NANDAIME INCIDENT AFTERMATH - THE FOURTH MEMBER OF THE FRENTE SANDINISTA DE LIBERACION NACIONAL (FSLN) WHO WAS KILLED BY THE NATIONAL GUARD AT NANDAIME ON SEPTEMBER 18 IS STILL UNIDENTIFIED. BUILDING ON RUMORS THAT CARLOS FONSECA AMADOR, LEADER OF THE FSLN, HAD RETURNED TO NICARAGUA, THE PRESS IS NOW SPECULATING THAT THE DEAD GUERRILLA IS REALLY FONSECA WHO FEATURES HAD BEEN DRASTICALLY ALTERED BY PLASTIC SURGERY IN MOSCOW. THE BODY IS BEING HELD BY THE NATIONAL GUARD PENDING IDENTIFICATION, AND NUMEROUS FAMILIES WITH YOUNG MEN WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN HAVE COME FORWARD TO EXAMINE IT.

ANOTHER AFTERMATH OF THE NANDAIME INCIDENT WAS THE OCTOBER 2 DEPARTURE OF DR. JOSE PASOS MARCIAQ FOR POLITICAL EXILE IN PANAMA. SHORTLY AFTER THE ENCOUNTER WITH THE FSLN, PASOS SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE EMBASSY OF PANAMA IN MANAGUA, CLAIMING THAT HE FEARED FOR HIS PERSONAL SAFETY. THE PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED PASOS, WHO HAS RELATIVES IN PANAMA, TO THE AIRPORT. PASOS IS ASSOCIATED WITH DR. MARIO FLORES ORTIZ, A FELLOW PSYCHIATRIST WHOSE ENDORSED CHECK FOR 150 CORDOBAS (ABOUT \$20) WAS FOUND AMONG THE EFFECTS OF THE FSLN MEMBERS IN NANDAIME. ORTIZ WAS IN HONDURAS AT THE TIME OF THE NANDAIME INCIDENT AND HAS NOT RETURNED TO NICARAGUA. IN MARCH 1971, PASOS RETURNED TO MANAGUA FROM A PREVIOUS EXILE OF ABOUT A YEAR AS A RESULT OF ALLEGED CONNECTIONS WITH THE FSLN AND OTHER LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS.

3. SOCIAL CHRISTIANS LAUNCH SEMINARS ON REFORM - FOLLOWING UP ON THEIR MANIFESTO OF SEPTEMBER 1 (MANAGUA 3690) WHICH CALLED FOR PUBLIC DEBATE OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND ELECTORAL REFORMS BEING PREPARED FOR THE 1974 ELECTIONS, THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY (PSC) BEGAN A SERIES OF SEMINARS ENTITLED "PUEBLO, CONSTITUCION Y POLITICA." THE SEMINARS ARE DIRECTED TOWARD COMMUNITY LEADERS AND THE INITIAL MEETING HELD OCTOBER 1 REPORTEDLY WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT THIRTY PERSONS. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ENACTMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION IS EXPECTED BY THE END OF THE YEAR, THERE HAD HERETOFORE BEEN NO PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED REFORMS AND OTHER THAN OCCASIONAL CRITICISMS IN OPPOSITION LA PRENSA. END COMMENT.

4. CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO DEPART: NICARAGUAN STUDENTS RETURN - LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MANAGU 04021 091416Z

RETIRED CARABINERO GENERAL EDUARDO LEMA MOLINA'S RESIGNATION AS CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY NOVEDADES, LEMA MOLINA SAID HE PLANS TO RETURN TO CHILE AND HAS NO FEAR OF BEING PERSECUTED BY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH FORMER PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE. AS THE AMBASSADOR PREPARES TO LEAVE NICARAGUA FOR CHILE, SOME 25 YOUNG NICARAGUANS WHO HAD BEEN STUDYING IN CHILE RETURNED TO NICARAGUA BY PLANE

OCTOBER 4. ALL WERE CLOSELY EXAMINED BY THE OFFICE OF SECURITY AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE BEING ADMITTED INTO THE COUNTRY.

5. LABOR DEVELOPMENTS - THE MINISTRY OF LABOR FINALLY EXTENDED LEGAL STATUS TO THE AIFLD ASSISTED CONFEDERACION NACIONAL DE MAESTROS DEMOCRATICOS DE NICARAGUA (CMN) AFTER MANY MONTHS OF DELAY. THE CMN REPRESENTS SOME 5,000 MEMBERS WHO CAN NOW BE EXPECTED TO PUSH HARDER ON THEIR ALREADY PENDING PETITION TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION FOR SALARY INCREASES. AIFLD ALSO ASSISTS THE 3,000 MEMBER CONFEDERACION DE UNIFICACION SINDICAL (CUS). TOGETHER THESE TWO FREE AND DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATIONS CONSTITUTE THE LARGEST BLOC OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN NICARAGUA. EXTENSION OF LEGAL STATUS TO CMN IS ANOTHER SIGN OF FAVORABLE ATTITUDE OF GON TOWARD AIFLD ASSISTED FREE AND DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT, WHICH ALTHOUGH INDEPENDENT OF THE GON IS BEST ALTERNATIVE TO COMMUNIST DOMINATED UNIONS. AT SAME TIME CMN WAS MAKING ITS BREAKTHROUGH, SCAAS, THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION, ADDED ANOTHER 400 WORKERS FROM THE BRICK MAKING FACTORIES IN MANAGUA TO ITS RANKS. THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACT SIGNED BY SCAAS WITH ELEVEN BRICK FACTORIES CALLS FOR PAY INCREASES COMPARABLE TO THOSE IT OBTAINED FROM THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES IN JULY AFTER A PROLONGED STRIKE, I.E. AROUND 33 0/0 (MANAGUA'S A-43 OF AUGUST 3, 1973).
SHELTON

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